

A Day to Be Proud Of: Year 10 Visit Bury St Edmunds

On Wednesday 7 October, we had the pleasure of taking 41 Year 10 students to Bury St Edmunds to explore Christian faith and worship beyond the classroom. Although the weather could have been kinder, our students gave us plenty to smile about. Their enthusiasm, kindness and maturity throughout the day made them wonderful ambassadors for Westbourne Academy, and we could not have been prouder of them.



Our visit to **St Edmundsbury Cathedral** gave students the chance to enjoy a guided tour and take in the beauty of the building. Alongside the exploring, there were quieter, more personal moments, as some students chose to light candles in remembrance of loved ones. It was lovely to see the care and respect they showed for both the space and one another. Some also had the opportunity to try on the ceremonial garments worn by clergy, known as vestments. We were fortunate to visit during Gina Long's **Square Peg Round Hole** exhibition, with the local artist herself present, adding something special to our time there.

At **Garland Street Baptist Church**, we were made to feel warmly welcome. Students discovered what a Baptist service looks like and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions about faith and everyday life. Hearing directly from members of the church community helped bring their classroom learning to life, offering an insight into the importance of worship, care for others and belonging. We are grateful to our hosts for sharing their time and experiences so generously.



There was also time to enjoy a hot drink by the aviary in **Abbey Gardens** and a walk around the grounds—a welcome chance to warm up and spend time together. What stayed with us most, however, was how well our students carried themselves throughout the day. They listened, joined in and treated those around them with respect, taking the weather in their stride. Thank you to everyone who helped make the visit possible, and especially to our Year 10 students: you represented yourselves, Ipswich and Westbourne Academy with pride, and gave us so much to be proud of.

